

Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area



MOU Signatories

South Florida Water Management District

Miami-Dade County

US Fish and Wildlife Service

US National Park Service

Army Corps of Engineers

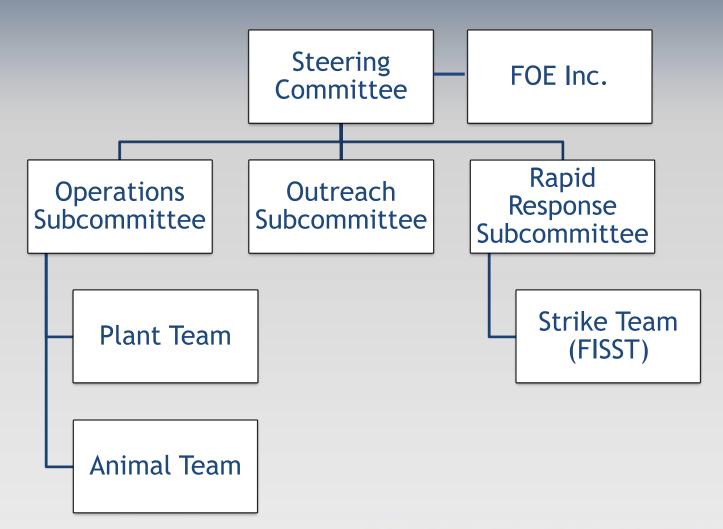
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

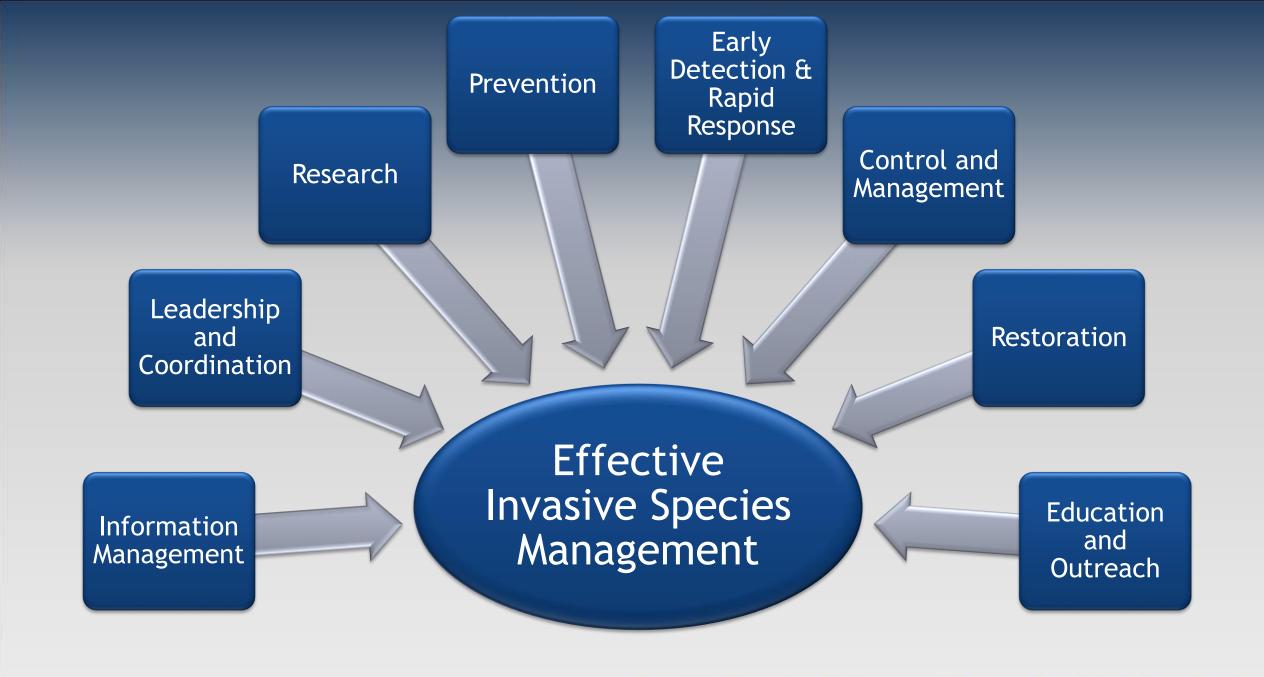
Partners

Broward County, The Nature Conservancy, University of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Geological Survey, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Power and Light, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Seminole Tribe of Florida, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Interior, Florida Department of Transportation, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Kampong Tropical Botanic Garden, the Everglades Foundation, Auburn University, Palm Beach County



verglades CISMA Organizational Chart





EvergladesCISMA.org Website



Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

WORKING TO PROTECT THE EVERGLADES FROM INVASIVE SPECIES

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BURMESE PYTHON

Python molurus bivittatus



OLD WORLD CLIMBING FERN

Lygodium microphyllum



BLACK & WHITE TEGU

Salvator merianae



South Florida is a hotspot for biological invasions.

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Tribut

Newsletter



The total eradication of brightly colored panther chameleons from a Broward County site was one of this year's success stories. (Photo courtesy Pat Howell, Broward County Parks)

Rapid Response success for nonnative wildlife by Jennifer Ketterlin Eckles

FISST puts the hammer down!

The Florida Invasive Species Strike Team (FISST) is the filed team under the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area's (ECISMA) Rapid Response Subcommittee that is deployed to respond to new sightlings of primarily nonnative wildlife within ECISMA's footprint. The team is comprised of a number of ECISMA partners with response capabilities and is directed by the affected land management agency for any given response.

The team has had a number of rapid response successes over the past year. Two significant rapid responses were the removal of a Nile crocodile from Everglades National Park (ENP) and the discovery and possible eradication of panther chameleons on a Broward County property.

Nile crocodile

In February of this year, while searching for Burmese pythons, members of the Swamp Apes, a volunteer group with ENP, spotted and photographed an odd crocodilian in the Chekika area of the park. The animal was identified as a Nile crocodile based on the photo and the identification was later confirmed by FISST. With permission from ENP, the University of Florida (UF) led an interagency team comprised of ENP rangers, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff and members of the Swamp Apes to remove the animal. On Sunday, March 9, 2014, the FISST team began the operation to remove the animal alive or dead. After several hours of using nets to corral the crocodile into a small section of a canal, the animal was harpooned and captured alive. Based on physical markings, the crocodile was identified as the same individual that eluded FWC and UF after it had been sighted two years earlier. The animal grew

over two and a half feet since it was last seen and due to the rapid response efforts of the FISST interagency team, the five and a half foot-long Nile crocodile was successfully identified and removed.

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Panther chameleon

Last July, a Broward County employee reported removing an adult panther chameleon from a county owned property on the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) website (www.eddmaps.org). After receiving this report, staff from UF and FWC searched the property the following night and found a juvenile panther chameleon. Subsequent surveys over the next few weeks resulted in the removal of a third juvenile chameleon. During this time, the group also received reports of three more animals from different residents of the neighborhood, including one adult that was removed and two of unknown age found dead on the road. It is not known whether this represents a breeding population or the release of multiple age classes. The team has since conducted follow-up surveys to determine if there is a breeding population established in the area, but no chameleons have been found or reported since late July. More follow-up surveys will be conducted in 2014 but the team is hopeful that this population has been extirpated. •



This Nile crocodile eluded authorities for two years, but was finally identified and removed from Everglades National Park this year. (Photo courtesy of Michael Rochford, University of Eluzida)

Sacred Ibis



Nile Monitor Lizards



Argentine Black and White Tegus



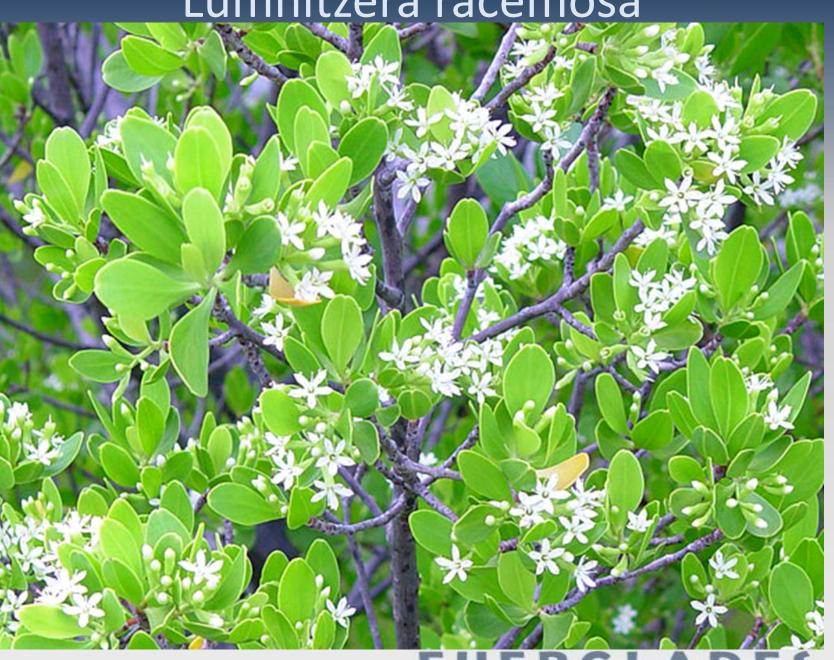
Golden Tegus

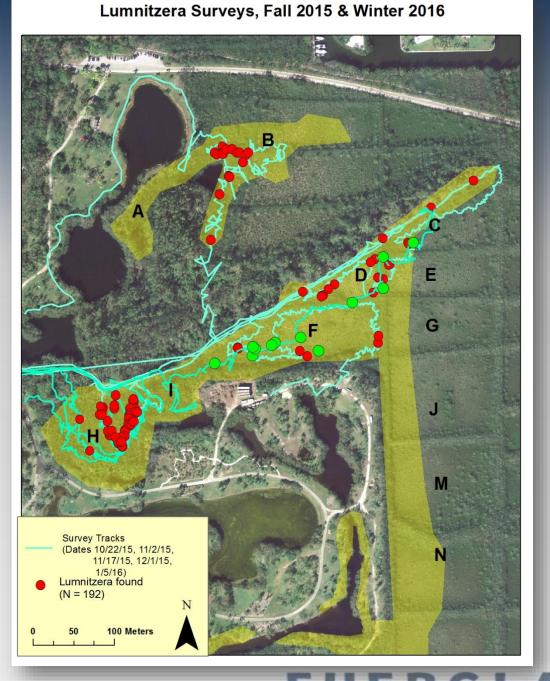


Northern African Pythons



Lumnitzera racemosa





Volunteer Workdays



Mikania scandens



Heteropterys brachiata



Dalchampia scandens



Friends of Everglades CISMA Inc



Friends of Everglades CISMA Race Against Invasives



Grant from Miccosukee Tribe for Invasive Animal Outreach





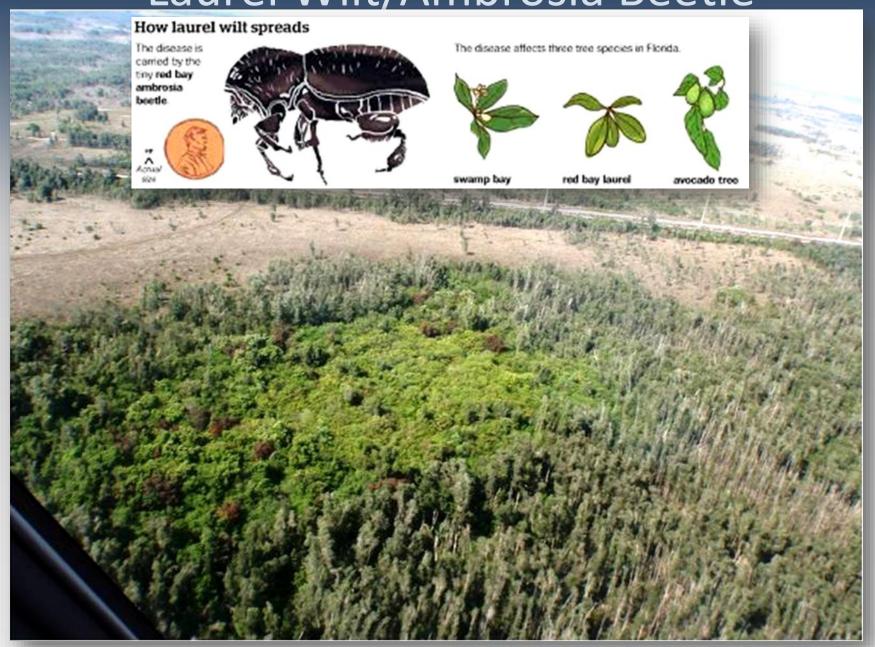
Non Native Fish Roundup

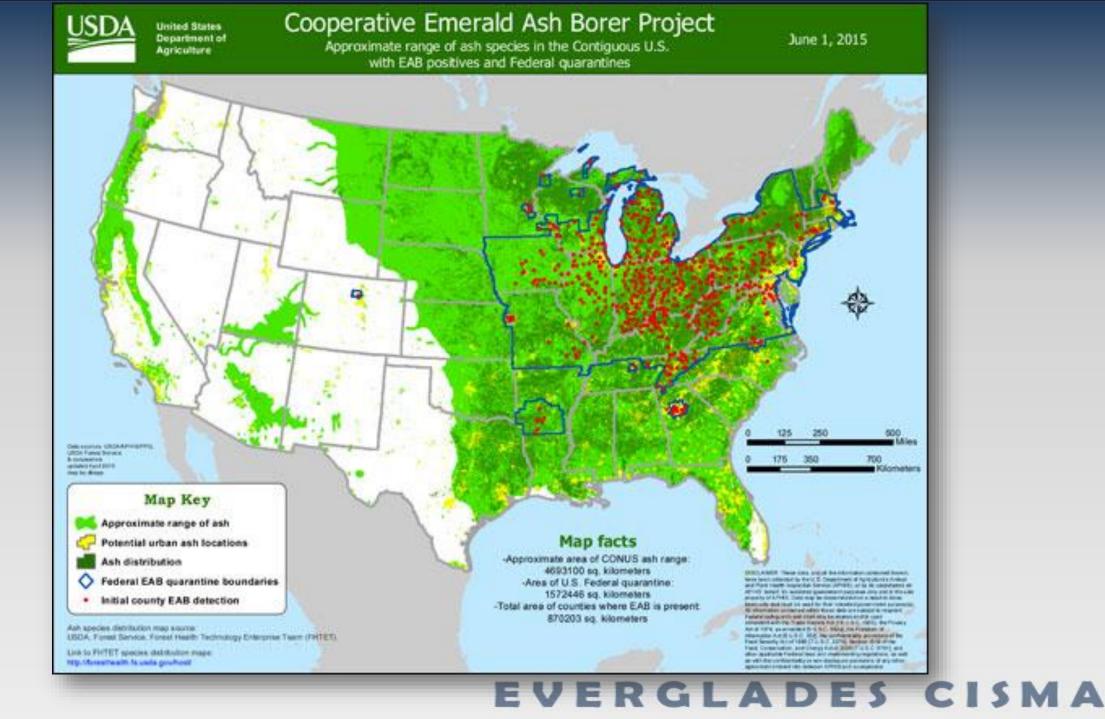


Non Native Fish Roundup



Laurel Wilt/Ambrosia Beetle





Thank You





































